

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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TO: Secretary of State

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Reference: Department's circular telegram 729, October 23.

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RMR

After repeated phone calls to Foreign Office beginning 9 a.m. finally received appointment with Racz at 4:30 p.m. accompanied by Sherman. On arrival he presented me with "official statement of Hungarian Government on Cuban situation" which was fairly invective reprint of editorial in morning paper supporting Cuba and Soviet Union. Having protested that I had asked for the appointment and therefore should speak first, I forthwith handed him my note to read while I was reading his. After scanning his document I observed that (since it was in no recognizable diplomatic form and contained insulting attacks on my government I did not see how I could accept it. He said in this case he could not accept my note. I replied that my note was entirely correct in diplomatic form and was simply as a matter of courtesy in informing the Hungarian Government of an important action. Therefore, I saw no parallel between the two documents. After considerable sparring around I agreed to take his document for information only in return for which he took a copy of President's speech which I commended for reading by every member of the Foreign Ministry.

I then spent few minutes stressing our great desire for peaceful solution but utmost seriousness of this situation. I also said I foresaw some difficult days ahead and I considered continuous prompt communication between his government and mine of greatest importance. This meant that when I asked for urgent appointment at Foreign Ministry I expected

/to get

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to get it more rapidly than today. (He professed not to be aware that I had been urgently seeking an appointment.) Furthermore, it would be dangerous to his government and mine if I did not remain in constant communication with Washington which had been difficult during the day because of frequent interruptions in teletype circuit. [He agreed it was in their interest to maintain communications and assured me there would be no difficulties.]

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